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State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of Proposed S.B. No. 103 An Act Concerning the Disclosure Of An Operative Sprinkler System In Any Dwelling Unit

**Housing Committee
February 3, 2015**

Dear Chairman Winfield, Chairman Butler, Senator Hwang, Representative Kupchick and members
of the Housing Committee:

I am writing to you in support of **SB 103 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF AN
OPERATIVE SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN ANY DWELLING UNIT.**

In January 2012, three college students living in an off-campus apartment near Marist College in New York lost their lives in a fire that raged through their apartment. The apartment was not equipped with sprinkler fire suppression equipment. One of those students was Connecticut resident Eva Block; her father is here today to testify in support of this bill.

At that time, there was no requirement under New York state law to notify the students of the lack of sprinklers. As a result of this incident, in June 2013, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation that is very similar to the one that is before you today. But SB 103 goes one step further, and doesn't limit disclosure of an operative sprinkler system to just those owned or operated by a college - instead, it covers any and all dwelling units.

Fire safety and prevention should remain a top priority; tenants of dwellings should be properly informed as to what systems, if any, are in place to keep them safe in the event of a fire. SB 103 will serve to increase awareness for tenants and to prevent tragic incidents like the one at Marist from happening again.

In conclusion, amending Connecticut General Statute 47a to include this requirement would help to keep safe and protect all occupants of a dwelling unit by properly informing them of what systems, if any, are in place in the event of a fire.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric C. Berthel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Berthel".

Eric C. Berthel
State Representative – 68th District